the year 2004, 19.6% of blood was collected from voluntary donors, while in 2005, the proporation of blood collected from voluntary donors rose to 24%.

(d) In the year 2005, based on annual collection of blood in Delhi, the everyday availability of blood was 1000 units as compared to 850 units in 2004.

Child Mortality

55. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 2.5 million children die in India every year as per the report of HAQ: Centre for Child Rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the health challenges faced by the new born children are bigger than that experienced by any other country; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, as per the report of HAQ, Centre For Child Rights, a non profit society, 2.5 million children die in India every year.

As per the "State India's Newborns", published by the National Neonatology Foundation, India is home to the highest number of both births and neonatal (newborn children) deaths of any country in the world.

The response of the government has been to launch a new initiative, *i.e.* the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) in the country as part of the second phase of the Reproductive and Child health programme which has been implemented since April 2005. The IMNCI places specific attention to the management of newborn children in the community and promotes health care of newborn children and management of sick newborn children. In addition, the ongoing programmes on maternal health and essential newborn care are being implemented.